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`			TO THE UNITED STATES	66386-283-7
		DESIGNATED/ELECT	ED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)	U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CFR
		CONCERNING A FILIN	NG UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371	10/049278
INTE		TIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/DK00/00447	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 10 August 2000	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED  11 August 1999
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			ates Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US)	
1.	<b>X</b>		items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 37	
2.			QUENT submission of items concerning a file	
3.	X	This is an express request to beg (9) and (24) indicated below.	in national examination procedures (35 U.S.	S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include itens (5), (6),
4.	X		expiration of 19 months from the priority dat	ate (Article 31)
5.	×		lication as filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c) (2))	te (Article 51).
i			uired only if not communicated by the Intern	national Bureau).
İ		b. 🛮 has been communicated	d by the International Bureau.	
i		c. $\square$ is not required, as the a	application was filed in the United States Rec	
6.			of the International Application as filed (35	
ļ		a. $\square$ is attached hereto.		
ļ.			bmitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).	
7.			e International Application under PCT Article	
			quired only if not communicated by the Interr	rnational Bureau).
			ed by the International Bureau.	
			owever, the time limit for making such amend	idments has NOT expired.
~	_	d. have not been made and		
8. 0			of the amendments to the claims under PCT	Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. 10		An earlieb longuage translation		
10.		An English language translation of Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(5)).	of the annexes to the International Prelimina.	ary Examination Report under PCT
11.	X		minary Examination Report (PCT/IPEA/409)	9).
12.		A copy of the International Search	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	1
It	tems 1	13 to 20 below concern document(	(s) or information included:	
13.	$\boxtimes$	An Information Disclosure States	ement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.	
14.			ording. A separate cover sheet in compliance	ce with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
15.	X	A FIRST preliminary amendmen	nt.	
16.		A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT	preliminary amendment.	
17.		A substitute specification.		
18.		A change of power of attorney and		
19.			sequence listing in accordance with PCT Ru	
20.			nternational application under 35 U.S.C. 154	
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24. The follo	wing fees are submitted:.		*****		IS PTO USE ONLY	
BASIC NATIONAL  Neither international se	FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - attonal preliminary examination earch fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) and Search Report not prepared	fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor paid to USPTO	\$1040.00	CALCOLATION	S FIO OSE ONL.	
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1300 I Street, N.W.			Richard H. T	ushin		
Wasington, DC 2000 (202) 906-8680	15-3306		NAME			
(~0 <i>m</i> ) >00-0000			27,297			
			REGISTRATIO	N NUMBER		
			February 11,	2002		
			DATE			

#### 66386-283-7

#### IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	)	PATENT
Holger THORSØ	)	Group Art Unit: Unknown
Serial No. (PCT/DK00/00447)	)	Examiner: Unknown
Filed: February 11, 2002	)	
PACKAGING	)	

Washington, D.C. February 11, 2002

Honorable Director of Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Concurrently with the U.S. national phase filing of this application, please amend this application as follows:

#### **IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10 as follows. A marked-up copy of these claims showing the changes made therein is attached.

- 2. (Amended) A package according to claim 1, characterized in that the cooperating engagement faces (29, 42) are mutually parallel and plane, and that the engagement faces (29, 42) extend obliquely relative to a normal to the axis CL.
- 3. (Amended) A package according to claim 2, characterized in that the engagement faces (29, 42), extend obliquely at an angle  $\alpha$  of between about 15° and about 40° relative to a normal to the axis CL.

- 4. (Amended) A package according to claim 1, characterized in that said first face (20) or second face (38) exhibits an annular projection adapted to generate a further, local compression of the sealing member (23) when the engagement faces (29, 42) engage each other.
- 5. (Amended) A package according to claim 4, characterized in that said first face (20) arranged in the reception channel (15) defines an annular groove, that the sealing member (23) is secured in the groove by adhesion or in another manner, and that said second face (38) exhibits the annular projection (39) adapted to generate said additional, local compression of the sealing member (23).
- 6. (Amended) A package according to claim 5, characterized in that, radially outwards from the axis (CL) and in extension of said annular projection (39), the engagement portion (40) exhibits an end edge (37) arranged opposite the second side wall (25) of the reception channel (15), and that the end edge (37) and said second side wall (25) between them define a ring-shaped space (5) whose radial extent decreases in a direction away from the sealing member (23).
- 7. (Amended) A package according to claim 6, characterized in that the sealing member (23) is secured to said first face (20) by adhesion.
- 9. (Amended) A lid according to claim 8, characterized in that the free end of said second side wall (25) comprises an inclined end face

(28) which extends approximately in parallel with said engagement face (19) on the lid (10).

10. (Amended) A mould for the manufacture of a lid according to claim 9, said lid (10) being manufactured using a female mould part (100), a male mould part (110) and an ejector ring (120), which together define a mould cavity for the lid (10), said ejector ring (120) being adapted to be moved in a direction of said axis (CL) to release a lid just moulded from the male mould part (110), characterized in that the ejector ring (120) defines a moulding face for said inclined end face (28) on the lid (10).

#### **REMARKS**

By this Preliminary Amendment the dependencies of claims 2-7, 9 and 10 have been revised. Entry is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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### VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

#### (PCT/DK00/00447)

- 2. (Amended) A package according to [the preceding] claim 1, characterized in[-] that the cooperating engagement faces (29, 42) are mutually parallel and plane, and [-] that the engagement faces (29, 42) extend obliquely relative to a normal to the axis CL.
- 3. (Amended) A package according to [the preceding] claim  $\underline{2}$ , characterized in [-] that the engagement faces (29, 42), extend obliquely at an angle  $\alpha$  of between about 15° and about 40° relative to a normal to the axis CL.
- 4. (Amended) A package according to [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in [-] that said first face (20) or second face (38) exhibits an annular projection adapted to generate a further, local compression of the sealing member (23) when the engagement faces (29, 42) engage each other.
- 5. (Amended) A package according to [the preceding] claim 4, characterized in [-] that said first face (20) arranged in the reception channel (15) defines an annular groove, [-] that the sealing member (23) is secured in the groove by adhesion or in another manner, and [-] that said second face (38) exhibits the annular projection (39) adapted to generate said additional, local compression of the sealing member (23).
- 6. (Amended) A package according to [the preceding] claim <u>5</u>, characterized in [-] that, radially outwards from the axis (CL) and in extension of said annular projection (39), the engagement portion (40)

exhibits an end edge (37) arranged opposite the second side wall (25) of the reception channel (15), and [-] that the end edge (37) and said second side wall (25) between them define a ring-shaped space (5) whose radial extent decreases in a direction away from the sealing member (23).

- 7. (Amended) A package according to claim [5 or] 6, characterized in [-] that the sealing member (23) is secured to said first face (20) by adhesion.
- 9. (Amended) A lid according to [preceding] claim 8, characterized in [-] that the free end of said second side wall (25) comprises an inclined end face (28) which extends approximately in parallel with said engagement face (19) on the lid (10).
- 10. (Amended) A mould for the manufacture of a lid according to [the preceding] claim 9, said lid (10) being manufactured using a female mould part (100), a male mould part (110) and an ejector ring (120), which together define a mould cavity for the lid (10), said ejector ring (120) being adapted to be moved in a direction of said axis (CL) to release a lid just moulded from the male mould part (110), characterized in [-] that the ejector ring (120) defines a moulding face for said inclined end face (28) on the lid (10).

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#### Packaging

The invention relates to a plastics package of the type stated in the introductory portion of claim 1, wherein a snap engagement is provided during the application of a lid to a container. Such a package is known e.g. from US Patent No. 5 143 219.

There is a need for providing a low-cost package that is suitable for the transport of e.g. inflammable liquids. In particular, there is a need for such a package as can meet the strict demands made by the UN with respect to density, both at an internal positive pressure of 1 bar liquid pressure and 0.4 bar gas pressure as well as after a drop test where the lid of the package is affected by a concentrated external impact. Even though for years numerous attempts have been made at providing such packages of plastics (see e.g. US Patent No. 5 163 576), so far it has nevertheless been necessary to resort to metallic packages in practice to ensure reliable properties. It has thus been observed that the radial expansion of the known plastics containers combined with the tendency of the plastics layer to bulge upwards during relatively low internal pressures has given rise to release of the snap engagement, so that the mentioned UN specifications cannot be met.

The invention has made it possible to provide a low-cost package which can be made of a plastics material in a simple manner, and which meets the mentioned specifications.

This is achieved as stated in claim 1, wherein, during the establishment of a snap engagement between the lid

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and the container of the package, first a compression and then a partial relief of a sealing member embedded between the lid and the container are provided. This greatly obviates the situation that an internal pressure in the container and an external impact can cause the snap engagement to be released. When preferably the lid and the container are formed with inclined cooperating engagement faces, a particularly simple structure is achieved.

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As stated in claim 5, the sealing member is preferably arranged in the lid, whereby damage to the sealing member during the application of the lid to the container is avoided to the greatest extent possible.

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When the package is formed so as to provide a ring-shaped space, as stated in claim 6, a particularly effective sealing of the package is achieved.

- The invention moreover relates to a lid for a container for providing a package of the type stated initially. The invention also relates to an expedient mould for the manufacture of the lid.
- The invention will now be explained more fully with reference to the embodiment shown in the drawing. In the drawing:
- fig. 1 shows a portion of a package according to the invention, seen in cross-section,
  - fig. 2 shows the lid shown in fig. 1 for the package,

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fig. 3 shows the container shown in fig. 1 for the package, and

figs. 4a - 4d show the manufacture of the lid shown in fig. 2 using a mould according to the invention.

In fig. 1, the reference numeral 1 generally designates a package consisting of a container 30 with an applied lid 10. The container 30 and the lid 10 extend symmetrically around an axis of symmetry CL. Both the container 30 and the lid 10 are made of a plastics material by moulding.

As mentioned initially, there is a need for providing a low-cost package which is suitable for the transport of inflammable liquids among other things. In particular, there is a need for such a package as can meet the strict requirements made by the UN with respect to density, both at an internal positive pressure of 1 bar liquid pressure and 0.4 bar gas pressure as well as after a drop test. Even though for years numerous attempts have been made at providing such packages of plastics, so far it has nevertheless been necessary to resort to metallic packages in practice to ensure reliable properties.

25 The shown container 30 is formed by a cylindrical wall 32 which, at its lowermost end, is connected with a bottom (not shown) for the container. Opposite the bottom, the wall 32 has an annular free edge 35. Outermost, the lid 10 has a skirt 14 which forms a downwardly open reception channel. When the lid 10 is applied to the container 30, the free edge 35 is moved into the reception channel until a position in which a snap engagement is established between the lid 10 and the container 30 by snap action. The snap engagement causes an engagement face 29 on the

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lid 10 to engage a complementary engagement face 42 on the container 30, which provides an effective fixing of the lid 10 on the container 30. To allow subsequent emptying of the package 1, the lid 10 may be formed with a separate opening.

As shown in fig. 1, the package 1 also comprises an annular elastic sealing member 23. When the snap engagement has been established between the lid 10 and the container 30, the sealing member 23 engages the bottom wall 19 of the reception channel of the lid 10 with a certain bias and engages an outwardly extending annular rib 31 on the outer side of the wall 32. A ring-shaped space 5 is provided outermost between the rib 31 and the skirt 14, said space having a radial extent which decreases in a direction away from the sealing member 23, as shown.

Fig. 2 shows the lid 10 alone. It will be seen that the lid 10 comprises a face portion 12 connected with said skirt 14. As mentioned, the skirt 14 forms the reception channel, which is indicated by the reference numeral 15, of the lid, said skirt 14 comprising a first side wall 17, a second side wall 25 and the bottom wall 19. The first side wall 17 is connected with the face portion 12 via an annular wall 11, and this connection is stiffened by means of ribs 13 which are directed radially from the axis CL and are arranged at a mutual distance around the axis CL. The second side wall 25 has a free end with an end face 28 extending obliquely in a direction up toward the face portion 12.

The lid 10 moreover has engagement means 27 arranged on the second side wall 25 in the vicinity of the end face 28. As shown, the engagement means 27 consist of a plane

annular engagement face 29 which extends obliquely relative to the axis of symmetry CL at an angle  $\alpha$ . The angle  $\alpha$  is preferably between about 15° and about 40°, preferably about 30° relative to a normal to the axis CL. An inclined face 26 connects the engagement face 29 with the end face 28.

It will moreover be seen that an annular projection 21 is arranged on the bottom wall 19. A groove-shaped depression is defined between the projection 21 and the second side wall 25, as shown, said depression forming a face 20 in which the sealing member 23 is embedded. The sealing member 23 is preferably made of synthetic rubber.

15 Fig. 3 shows a portion of the container 30 according to the invention. Outermost on the wall 32, at a short distance below the free end 35, there is arranged an engagement portion which is generally designated by the reference numeral 40, and which is formed to establish a tight 20 and reliable snap engagement with the lid 10. The engagement portion 40 comprises the above-mentioned rib 31 and an underlying annular rib 41. The two ribs 31, 41 are interconnected by radially directed ribs 44 arranged at a mutual distance around the axis CL. The upper rib 31 has an outer plane end edge 37 which preferably extends at an 25 angle of about  $5^{\circ}$  relative to the axis CL, and an upper projection 39 arranged on the face 38 which defines the upper side of the rib 31. This angle may e.g. be selected to be between about  $3^{\circ}$  and about  $15^{\circ}$ . The function of the projection 39 will be explained more fully below. 30

As will be seen, the rib 41 is formed on the underside with a plane annular engagement face 42 which extends obliquely relative to the axis of symmetry CL at an angle

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 $\alpha$ , i.e. in parallel with the engagement face 29 on the lid 10. The engagement face 29 preferably has such a shape and dimension that it can engage the engagement face 42 over its entire area once the snap engagement has been established.

It will be appreciated that by application of the lid 10 to the container 30 the second side wall 25 will be deformed elastically radially outwards, while the inclined face 26 is moved along the ribs 31, 41 and 44. During this, compression of the sealing member 23 is provided. When the second side wall 25 then bends back to the starting portion, at the moment when the inclined face 26 moves past the rib 41 on the container 30, said snap engagement is established, while relief of the sealing member takes place simultaneously because of the shape of the engagement faces 29, 42, when the lid subsequently moves slightly upwards during the short movement of the engagement face 29 on the engagement face 42. In this position, the sealing member 23 engages both the face 20 on the lid 10 and the face 38 on the rib 31, as shown in fig. 1, and the projection 39 will moreover provide a localized annular deformation of the sealing member 23. This deformation causes part of the sealing member 23 to be pressed into the ring space 5 between the end edge 37 of the rib 31. Since the ring space 5 is wedge-shaped, preferably because of the oblique extent of the end edge 37 relative to the vertical axis CL, additional compression of the part of the material of the sealing member 23 that is pressed into the ring space 5 is achieved, which results in an increase in the sealing properties of the package.

It will be appreciated that the cooperating annular engagement faces 29, 42 are preferably plane; however, nothing prevents the engagement faces from bulging upwards.

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Fig. 4a shows a portion of a mould for use in the manufacture of the lid for the package described above. The mould comprises a female mould part 100, a male mould part 110 and an ejector ring 120 that surrounds the male mould part 110. These mould parts together define a mould cavity for the lid 10 into which a plastics moulding material is injected by means of devices not shown. The ejector ring 120 has a surface portion 122 which forms a moulding face for the inclined end face 28 of the lid during moulding. The male mould part 110 moreover has a recess 112 for providing the engagement face 29 of the lid 10.

Figs. 4b - 4d show how the moulded lid is pressed out of
the male mould part 110. The female mould part 100 is
first removed as shown in fig. 4b, following which the
ejector ring 120 is moved vertically upwards in the direction of the arrow P as shown in fig. 4c, so that the
surface portion 122 moves along the inclined end face 28.

This upwardly directed movement of the ejector ring 120
gives rise to an outwardly directed force on the finished
lid 10, causing the second end wall 25 of the skirt to
yield outwards, so that the engagement face 29 clears the
recess 112, and so that the lid may then be pressed out
of the male mould part 110 by a continued upward movement

#### Example:

of the ejector ring 120.

A package of the type described above with reference to the drawing was manufactured. The container had a diameter of 30 cm and a height from the bottom to the free edge 35 of 40 cm. The wall thickness of the container was 0.2 cm and the thickness of the lid was 0.2 cm. The package was made of HDPE, and a sealing member made of DUROTAK H2036E manufactured by National Starch & Chemical AB, of Sweden, was selected. The ribs 31 and 41 had a thickness of 0.1 and 0.2 cm, respectively, and the angle  $\alpha$  of the face 29 and 42 was selected to be  $22^{\circ}$ .

By application of an inner positive air pressure of 0.4 bar and an internal liquid pressure of 1 bar a sufficient density was observed to meet UN standard No. 1H2/Y/100/-.

15 The package was likewise able to withstand the drop test described in the same standard.

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# Patent Claims:

- A package of a plastics material and consisting of a
   container and a lid,
- said container (30) having a bottom connected with a cylindrical wall (32) extending around an axis (CL), said wall (32), opposite the bottom, having a free end (35) which defines an opening that gives access to the interior of the container (30), said wall (32) having an annular engagement portion (40) on the outer side at its free end (35),
- said lid (10) comprising a substantially disc-shaped face portion (12) with a peripheral skirt (14) which forms an annular reception channel (15), extending around said axis (CL), for said free end (35), said reception channel (15) being defined by a first side wall (17), a second side wall (25) and a bottom wall (19), said first side wall (17) being connected with the disc-shaped face portion (12), said second side wall (25) comprising engagement means (27) adapted to form a snap engagement with the engagement portion (40),
  - said engagement portion (40) and said engagement means (27) comprising complementary engagement faces (42, 29) adapted to engage each other for establishing said snap engagement,
  - there being arranged between the engagement portion (40) and the bottom wall (19) an annular resilient sealing member (23), which extends around the entire reception channel (15), and which, once said snap engagement

has been established, engages an annular first face (20) arranged in the reception channel (15) and a second annular face (38) arranged on the container (30) at said free end (35),

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#### characterized in

- that the engagement portion (40) and the engagement means (27) are shaped such that an axial compression of the sealing member (23) is provided during the application of the lid (10), said compression being partially relieved when said engagement faces (29, 42) engage each other.
- 15 2. A package according to the preceding claim, characterized in
  - that the cooperating engagement faces (29, 42) are mutually parallel and plane, and

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- that the engagement faces (29, 42) extend obliquely relative to a normal to the axis CL.
- 3. A package according to the preceding claim,
- 25 characterized in
  - that the engagement faces (29, 42) extend obliquely at an angle  $\alpha$  of between about 15° and about 40° relative to a normal to the axis CL.

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4. A package according to one of the preceding claims, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in

- that said first face (20) or second face (38) exhibits an annular projection adapted to generate a further, local compression of the sealing member (23) when the engagement faces (29, 42) engage each other.

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- 5. A package according to the preceding claim, characterized in
- that said first face (20) arranged in the reception channel (15) defines an annular groove,
  - that the sealing member (23) is secured in the groove by adhesion or in another manner, and
- 15 that said second face (38) exhibits the annular projection (39) adapted to generate said additional, local compression of the sealing member (23).
  - 6. A package according to the preceding claim,
- 20 characterized in
- that, radially outwards from the axis (CL) and in extension of said annular projection (39), the engagement portion (40) exhibits an end edge (37) arranged opposite the second side wall (25) of the reception channel (15), and
- that the end edge (37) and said second side wall (25) between them define a ring-shaped space (5) whose radial extent decreases in a direction away from the sealing member (23).
  - 7. A package according to claim 5 or 6, characterized in

- that the sealing member (23) is secured to said first face (20) by adhesion.
- 8. A lid for a package of the type defined in claim 2, said lid (10) comprising a substantially disc-shaped face portion (12) with a peripheral skirt (14) which forms an annular reception channel (15), extending around said axis (CL), for the free end (35) of the container (30), said reception channel (14) being defined by a first side wall (17), a second side wall (25) and a bottom wall (19), said first side wall (17) being connected with the disc-shaped face portion (12), said second side wall (25) comprising engagement means (27) adapted to form a snap engagement with the engagement portion (40) on the container (30),

#### characterized in

- 20 that the engagement means (27) comprise an engagement face (29) which extends obliquely relative to said axis (CL) at an angle  $\alpha$  of between about 20° and about 40° relative to a normal to the axis CL, and
- 25 that an annular sealing means (23) is secured in the reception channel (15) by adhesion or in another manner.
  - 9. A lid according to the preceding claim, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in
  - that the free end of said second side wall (25) comprises an inclined end face (28) which extends approximately in parallel with said engagement face (19) on the lid (10).

- 10. A mould for the manufacture of a lid according to the preceding claim, said lid (10) being manufactured using a female mould part (100), a male mould part (110) and an ejector ring (120), which together define a mould cavity for the lid (10), said ejector ring (120) being adapted to be moved in a direction of said axis (CL) to release a lid just moulded from the male mould part (110),
- 10 characterized in
  - that the ejector ring (120) defines a moulding face for said inclined end face (28) on the lid (10).

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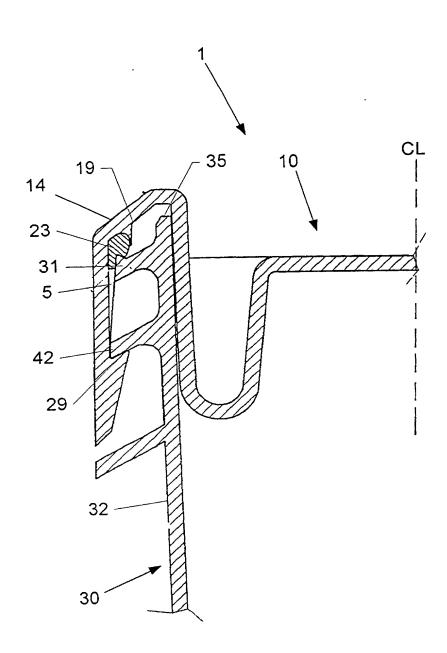


Fig. 1

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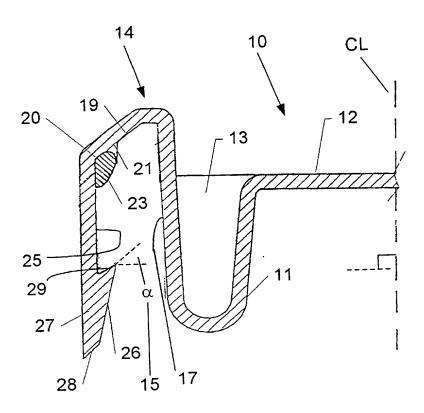


Fig. 2

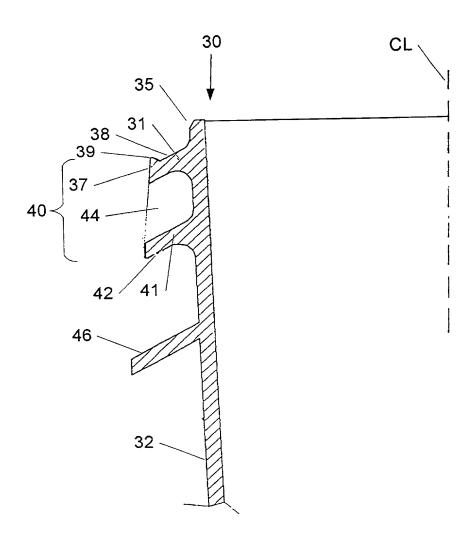


Fig. 3

120...

10/02022

Fig. 4c

110

Fig. 4d

110

## COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR **UTILITY** PATENT APPLICATION (Includes PCT)

Attorney Docket No.

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; that

invention entitled:	ckaging		
the specification of which (c	heck one): [ ] is attache	ed hereto.	
[ ] was filed on on		cation Serial No.	and was amended
[x] was filed as PCT interrand was amended under PC	national application no. <u>PCT</u> CT Article 19 on	7/ DK00/00447on_ (if applicable).	10 August 2000
I hereby state that I have rev as amended by any amend		contents of the above-identified spe	cification, including the claims,
I acknowledge the duty to di Title 37, Code of Federal Re		material to the examination of this	application in accordance with
or our invention thereof, or thereof or more than one ye of America more than one y an inventor's certificate issu	patented or described in a ar prior to this application, t ear prior to this application, ed before the date of this ap	vas ever known or used in the Unite ny printed publication in any coun hat the same was not in public use , that the invention has not been pa oplication in any country foreign to the or assigns more than twelve month	try before my or our invention or on sale in the United States atented or made the subject of ne United States of America on
	elow and have also identifie	nited States Code §119 of any fore ed below any foreign application for which priority is claimed:	
Prior Foreign Application(s)			Priority Claimed
PA 1999 01114 (Number)	Denmark (Country)	11 August 1999 Day/Month/Year Filed	[x] [] Yes No
(Number)	(Country)	Day/Month/Year Filed	[] [] Yes No
(Number)	(Country)	Day/Month/Year Filed	[] [] Yes No
I hereby claim the benefit un below:	der Title 35, United States C	Code, §119 (e) of any United States	provisional application(s) listed
Application No.	Day/Month/Year Filed	Application No.	Day/Month/Year Filed

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) or PCT international application(s) designating the United States of America listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

•		
Application Serial No.	Filing Date	Status (patented, pending, abandoned)
Application Serial No.	Filing Date	Status (patented, pending, abandoned)
I hereby appoint the follow	ing attorney(s) and/or agent	t(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in th

Attorney Docket No.

I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: Lawrence R. Radanovic, Reg. No. 23,077; Richard H. Tushin, Reg. No. 27,297; Donald N. Huff, Reg. No. 27,561; John P. DeLuca, Reg. No. 25,505; Michael Bergman, Reg. No. 42,318; Sandra S. Snapp, Reg. No. 41,444; Charles Rutherford, Reg. No. 18,933; Robert L. Kelly, Reg. No. 31,843; Kevin M. Hinman, Reg. No. 35,193; Ernest E. Helms, Reg. No. 29,721; William F. Kolakowski, Reg. No. 41,908; and John F. Buckert, Reg. No. 44,572, all of Dykema Gossett PLLC. Direct all telephone calls to telephone no. (202) 522-8600 and faxes to (202) 522-8669.

Address all correspondence to <u>Dykema Gossett PLLC, Suite 300 West, 1300 I Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005-3306.</u>

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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